

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 SCCT-01 DHA-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07

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R 070555Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5191

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 487

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2411

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK
ON ENTEBBE AIRPORT

1. DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN

AFFAIRS, LAKSHMAN

JAYAKODY, ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 6 WHICH CONDEMNED THE
ISRAELI RESCUE OF HOSTAGES AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT "AS AN ACT OF
AGGRESSION AND A GRAVE VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF
UGANDA AND NEIGHBORING STATES." STATEMENT ALSO STRESSED,
HOWEVER, THAT SRI LANKA DID NOT CONDONE THE HIJACKING OF
PLANES OR THE HOLDING OF HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL GAINS.

2. TEXT OF STATEMENT IS: "WE DO NOT CONDONE THE HIJACKING
OF PLANES OR THE HOLDING OF HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL GAINS
WITH CONSEQUENT RISK TO INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES.

"AT THE SAME TIME WE WISH EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN OUR SUPPORT
FOR THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SRI LANKA HAS
TIME AND AGAIN DECLARED HERE SUPPORT FOR THE LEGITIMATE

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NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND WILL

CONTINUE TO DO SO.

"WE CONDEMN THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON ENTebbe AIRPORT
IN UGANDA. WE CONSIDER IT AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AND A GRAVE
VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF UGANDA AND NEIGHBORING
STATES. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE POSITION TAKEN UP ON THIS
MATTER BY THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY".

3. COMMENT: STATEMENT APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE
SRI LANKA'S IMAGE AMONG NON-ALIGNED. WHILE IT ALSO REITERATES
SRI LANKA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN
CAUSE, DISCLAIMER AT VERY START INDICATES CEYLONSE WANT
TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT THEY CONDONE OR SUPPORT
TERRORISM. IN FACT, MANY CEYLONSE HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED
CONSIDERABLE APPROBATION OF ISRAELI ACTION.
REED

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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